

## REMARKS

## Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 5-15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24-27, 29, 30, 32, 34-36, and 38-52 are pending in the present application, Claims 19, 22, and 31 having been previously canceled, and Claims 4, 16, 23, 28, 33, and 37 having been canceled in the present amendment. Claims 1-3, 5-12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24-27, 29, 30, 32, 34-36, 38-43, and 46-52 are amended to more clearly define the invention or correct grammatical/stylistic errors.

## Claim Objection

The Examiner has objected to Claims 4-7, 12, 16, 23-24, 28-30, 33, 37-39, and 41-43, indicating that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed in greater detail below, subject matter from Claims 4, 16, 23, 28, 33, and 37 have been respectively introduced into independent Claims 1, 14, 20, 26, 32, and 35, thereby placing all claims in condition for allowance.

Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 8-11, 14-15, 17-18, 20-21, 25-27, 32, 34-36, and 40 as being anticipated by the teaching of U.S. Patent No. 7,096,125 (Padmanabhan). Padmanabhan discloses a sensor network configured to process data received from a plurality of distributed sensors using an information fusion method (i.e., a Bayesian net) in order to reduce false alarms and enhance the detection of threats. The Examiner asserts that Padmanabhan discloses a device equivalent to that recited in applicant's claims. Applicant has amended each independent claim to introduce subject matter from claims to which the Examiner objected, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Claim 1 has been amended to introduce the patentable subject matter from objected-to Claim 4 (along with the additional element of an analyzer, to further clarify the claimed subject matter), and therefore, Claim 1 as amended patentably distinguishes over the cited art. Claims 2, 3, and 8-11 each depend on Claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 14 has been amended to introduce the patentable subject matter from objected-to Claim 16 (along with the additional element of an analyzer, to further clarify the claimed subject matter), and therefore, Claim 14 as amended patentably distinguishes over the cited art. Claims 15, 17, and 18 each depend on Claim 14, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

1 Claim 20 has been amended to introduce the patentable subject matter from objected-to  
2 Claim 23, and therefore, Claim 20 as amended patentably distinguishes over the cited art. Claims 21,  
3 24, and 25 each depend on Claim 20, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 26 has been amended to introduce the patentable subject matter from objected-to Claim 28 (along with the additional element of means for collecting data from the particles, to further clarify the claimed subject matter), and therefore, Claim 26 as amended patentably distinguishes over the cited art. Claim 27 depends on Claim 26, and is patentable for at least the same reasons.

8 Claim 32 has been amended to introduce the patentable subject matter from objected-to  
9 Claim 33, and therefore, Claim 32 as amended patentably distinguishes over the cited art. Claim 34  
10 depends on Claim 32, and is patentable for at least the same reasons.

11       Claim 35 has been amended to introduce the patentable subject matter from objected-to  
12 Claim 37 (along with the additional element of means for determining if the particles are a potential  
13 threat, to further clarify the claimed subject matter), and therefore, Claim 35 as amended patentably  
14 distinguishes over the cited art. Claims 36 and 40 each depend on Claim 35, and are patentable for at  
15 least the same reasons.

16        Accordingly, all of the claims now in this application define patentable subject matter that is  
17 neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the prior art cited. The Examiner is thus requested to pass  
18 the present patent application to issue in view of the amendments and the remarks submitted above.  
19 If there are any questions that might be addressed by a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to  
20 telephone the undersigned attorney, at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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